

## What does the Parish Council do?

The Parish Council is one of about 8500 Parish and Town Councils in England and it is the first of the three tiers of local government in the County.

The Council has a considerable number of powers (*may do rather than must do*) ranging from the provision of public seats, notice boards and litter bins to providing allotments, cemeteries and swimming pools. The Council supports local groups and activities and represents your views to other bodies

Importantly the Parish Council can raise a local precept or tax which is collected by the District Council. There is always reference to this on your Council tax invoice.

Each year the Council seeks further grants from the City and County Councils for the Parish Hall and projects in the parish. In 2004/05 the Council turned over about £20,000 of which the precept was £5000 - not bad for a small council serving about 400 people.

The Council holds an annual meeting, usually in May and five other meetings - all must be in public. Agendas include time for the public to have a say about any issue in the parish.



### Who are your Parish Councillors

Elected in 2003 for 4 years the role of your Councillors is to represent your views and concerns to the Parish Council and to other public bodies. They are:-

Cllr N Elliott (Chair)	- 01228 675336
Cllr A Dalgleish	- 01228 675388
Cllr J Falder	- 01228 675690
Cllr F Heaton	- 01228 675516
Cllr H Kay	- 01228 675910
Cllr P Ruddick	- 01228 675485
Cllr A Sisson	- 01228675378
Cllr G Sisson	- 01228 675101
Cllr W Stockdale	- 01228 675432

The Parish is also well served by City Cllr Syd Bowman and County Cllr John Mallinson

# The Gill

For everyone in and around Hethersgill

**Welcome to the first edition of The 'Gill'.**

Sponsored by Hethersgill Parish Council, The Gill will be published quarterly and aims to tell you about the work of the Council and other bodies helping to improve the quality of life in the parish

We shall include regular information updates on local services, short features on topical issues and some of the crack from the insider track of local and national government.

## YOUR PARISH PLAN - Go on – Get involved!

**The big story now is about how you can get involved - in putting together Hethersgill's own Parish's Plan for the future.**

This issue of the Gill is accompanied by a leaflet from the Steering Committee. **This is your chance to have a real say.**

Wouldn't it be marvellous if every household could complete a questionnaire?!

The Parish Council is totally behind the idea of having a plan that everyone can feel they 'own' and what's more, can really feel that they are helping to get things done.

**Stop Crime, call -Crimestoppers. 0800 555 111.**

## Parish Hall makeover

If there is a way of getting involved this is it! Hundreds of people from in and around the parish have been involved in fundraising to improve the Parish Hall. Following a policy set two years ago the Parish Council and the Parish Hall Committee have set about repair works and upgrading the facilities.

So far the roof has seen major repair works, the toilets have been upgraded to provide facilities for the disabled, fire safety has been improved and new tables purchased.

Soon we will see the kitchen enlarged and completely revamped. New tables and chairs for the hall will be provided as well.

Plans are a foot for an extension to the Hall itself - it's all happening!



### **Mobile Community Police Station**

A popular and necessary service will again be visiting the Parish throughout 2006. See the Parish Notice boards for details.

**To contact the police in an  
Emergency ring 999**

*There is a new telephone Number for non-emergency calls to  
Cumbria Police:-*

**0845 33 00 247**

Your Community police team is -

PC 187 Hughes            Mobile 07980 747406  
PC 1146 Williams        Mobile 07967572174

or by post to County Police Station, Graham St, Longtown, CA6 5NR



### **Mobile Post Office**

After lots of consultation the Post Office accepted the (large) majority view that mobile services could not be abandoned. The van visits Hethersgill every Weds morning between 10.45am and 11.00 am.



### **Recycling**

More people are using the recycling facility at the Parish Hall. Soon, the City Council is going to give us a big green bin for cardboard. We shall also see more changes over the coming year in the way we can help to cut down the amount of stuff that goes into the ground.



### **Dog fouling**

Not much of a problem in the Countryside you might say but in fact the No.1 issue for nearly all Parish Councils - Dog owners -please have a care when taking Fido for walkies.



### **HGV's**

"We know that they have to go in and out of the peat works but do they have to do it outside the agreed hours and what's more, do they have to come through the village" - a common and strongly expressed view that the Parish Council has taken up with the County Council. Watch this space.

### **Highways hotline**

Did you know you can report problems like pot holes, flooding or broken signs to the Highways Hotline - 0845 6096609

### **Comments**

We welcome comments about the newsletter or any topic - please contact Clive Moth, Clerk to the Council 01228 675328